

Amendments to the Claims

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 1. (Currently Amended) A component⁵⁰ for receiving a plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in a siding system for covering a substantially flat or planar wall of a building or dwelling, comprising:

an elongated⁵² body for abutting against the substantially planar wall, said body including first and second⁶⁴ receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions, each for receiving a portion of at least one of the plurality of horizontally extending siding strips¹⁶ along the substantially planar wall, and an outwardly bowed⁵² portion, wherein each receiver is substantially U-shaped and includes a first wall for at least partially covering the end of the corresponding horizontally extending siding strip, ^{as at 64 in Fig 2} wherein each receiver includes a first wall for at least partially covering the end of the corresponding horizontally extending siding strip; an end wall connected to said first wall; and a fastener receiving portion⁶⁰ connected to said end wall for abutting with the wall of the building or dwelling.

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 2. (Original) The siding system component according to claim 1, further including an integral fastener receiving section adjacent to each receiver in abutment with the wall.

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 3. (Previously Presented) The siding system component according to claim 2, wherein said outwardly bowed portion is integrally connected to a portion of each of said receivers.

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 4. (Original) The siding system component according to claim 3, wherein said outwardly bowed portion includes indicia to simulate the appearance of a vertically extending log.
^{53 61 8 11-13}

5. (Cancelled)

repeats claim 1

6. (Original) The siding system component according to claim 1, wherein each receiver includes an end wall.

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7. (Original) The siding system component according to claim 6, wherein the end walls are substantially parallel and spaced apart.

8. (Canceled)

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9. (Currently Amended) The siding system component according to claim [[8]] 1, wherein the first wall of each said receiver is integrally connected to an end of said outwardly bowed portion, said outwardly bowed portion simulates the appearance of a log or timber. *53 col 5 line 11-13*

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10. (Original) The siding system component according to claim 9, wherein the fastener receiving portion is elongated relative to the first wall of the corresponding receiver.

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11. (Previously Presented) A siding system for covering a substantially planar portion of a wall in a dwelling, comprising:

at least one first siding ¹⁶strip and at least one second siding strip, said siding strips extending substantially horizontally along the wall;

at least one siding component ⁵²extending vertically along the wall, said component including first and second opposed receivers ⁶⁴extending substantially 180 degrees ⁶⁴in opposite directions, said first receiver receiving a portion of said at least one first siding strip and said second receiver receiving a portion of said at least one second siding strip, said first and second siding strips extending horizontally along the

substantially planar portion of the wall and said at least one siding component further including an outwardly bowed portion, wherein each receiver is substantially U-shaped and includes a first wall for at least partially covering the end of the corresponding horizontally extending siding strip, an end wall connected to said first wall, and a fastener receiving portion connected to said end wall for abutting with the wall of the building or dwelling.

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103 12. (Original) The siding system according to claim 11, wherein the first and second siding strips are positioned in substantially the same vertical plane.

103 13. (Original) The siding system according to claim 11, wherein the first and second siding strips are positioned in substantially the same horizontal plane.

14. (Cancelled)

103 col 5 line 2-4 15. (Previously Presented) The siding system according to claim 11, further including at least one fastener for fastening each said fastener receiving section to the wall.

103 16. (Previously Presented) The siding system component according to claim 11, wherein the first wall of each said receiver is integrally connected to an end of said outwardly bowed portion, said outwardly bowed portion simulates the appearance of a log or timber.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for installing a plurality of horizontally extending siding strips on a wall, comprising:

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cont) providing an elongated siding component having first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions and having an outwardly bowed portion, each receiver adapted for receiving a portion of at least one of the plurality of horizontally extending siding strips along the substantially planar wall, and an outwardly bowed portion, wherein each receiver is substantially U-shaped and includes a first wall for at least partially covering the end of the corresponding horizontally extending siding strip; wherein each receiver includes a fastener receiving section for abutting with the wall, and the method further includes affixing the component to the wall by placing at least one fastener through each fastener receiving section;

vertically orienting said elongated siding component having first and second opposed receivers adjacent to the wall;

inserting a first end of a first one of said plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in one of said first or second receivers;

inserting a second end of a second one of said plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in the other of said first or second receivers;

affixing the first and second siding strips to the wall.

18. (Canceled)

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